

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### A LEADER IN CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH CARE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, Saint Agnes Medical Center has been blessed by the presence of Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson. Since her arrival to Fresno in January of 1984, she has embraced her position as President and CEO of Saint Agnes Medical Center. Now, as Sister Ruth moves forward in her life-long commitment to help those people in most need, it is clear that she has left a lasting mark upon the Medical Center, as well as upon the entire Fresno community. During her tenure at Saint Agnes, employee size grew from 1,500 to its present size of 2,700. Several new wings and centers opened under her direction, including the California Eye Institute, the Cancer Center, the Heart and Vascular Center, and the medical center's East and North Wing expansions.

In addition to these projects, Sister Ruth was also influential in the expansion of the Holy Cross Center for Women. At the women's center, she oversaw the establishment of the Gathering Place, a safe spot where children now learn and play; MaryHaven, an educational facility designed to teach women important life skills; and Naomi's House, an overnight respite for women.

Beyond her position at the medical center, Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson serves on the board of many organizations, including the Fresno Business Council, Fresno Compact, Poverello House, and The California Endowment (TCE). She was also a past board chair of the Catholic Health Association of the USA, the Alliance of Catholic Health Care, and the Hospital Council of Northern & Central California. Currently, Sister Ruth serves as chair of the Regional Advisory Council of the Central Valley Health Policy Institute.

While these numerous projects and board positions are impressive and speak volumes of her commitment to providing quality health care to the people of the Central Valley, what is most notable about Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson is the warmth and compassion with which she conducts her daily activities. She possesses the distinct ability to bring people together to work for the good of the community, and she accomplishes such with both a kind heart and revered sense of humor.

### HONORING OFFICER DAVID M. RANES

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer David M. Ranes for his

exemplary service with Turlock Police Services and to his community. An event to celebrate the retirement of Officer Ranes will be held on Friday, April 15, 2005 in Turlock, CA.

David Ranes was born in China Lake, CA on March 9, 1955. After graduating from Turlock High School in 1972, David enrolled in the Modesto Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, class number F-1. Upon completing his training, David was hired by Turlock Police Chief James Greenway to serve and protect his community on August 16, 1979.

Throughout his entire career, Officer Ranes worked various special assignments. He has served as patrol officer, detective, narcotics agent, and background investigator. While in Detectives, he investigated a homicide that is now going to trial as a death penalty case. Officer Ranes was privileged to serve under the tenures of former Turlock Police Services Chief(s) James Greenway, John Johnson, Robert Johnson, and current Chief Donald Lott.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Officer David M. Ranes for his 26 years of service with Turlock Police Services. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Ranes upon retirement and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE U.S. TSU- NAMI WARNING AND EDUCATION ACT

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2005*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today (along with my colleague Mr. INSLEE from Washington State) to introduce the U.S. Tsunami Warning and Education Act of 2005. On December 26 of last year, we all watched with horror and complete bewilderment as a massive tsunami swept across the Indian Ocean Basin ravaging 11 nations, killing more than 150,000 people, and affecting the day-to-day lives of millions.

This event was a wake up call for coastal communities around the world, and certainly for coastal communities in the U.S. While the U.S. does have a tsunami detection and warning system in the Pacific, this event forced us to reexamine that system and we found that most of the vulnerable communities in the U.S. are not adequately protected or prepared for a similar event.

The Administration responded quickly to the Indian Ocean Tsunami with a proposal in January to strengthen and expand the current U.S. tsunami detection and warning system. The Science Committee took the lead in Congress and held a hearing on the Administration's proposal and heard from experts who expressed some concerns about the Administration's proposal and had numerous recommendations to improve it.

We took the Administration's proposal and the comments from many experts and devel-

oped the U.S. Tsunami Warning and Education Act. The bill would authorize \$30 million a year for 30 years for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to: strengthen the current tsunami detection system in the Pacific and expand it to the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico regions; conduct a community-based tsunami hazard mitigation program to improve preparedness of at-risk areas; maintain a dedicated tsunami research program; and provide technical assistance and training to the international community on the development of a global tsunami detection and warning system.

While tsunamis are going to continue to threaten our coasts, this legislation ensures that we can be better prepared through early detection, instant warnings, and an educated population.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO UNIVER- SITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRAN- CISCO-FRESNO ON THE OPENING OF THE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 18, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate University of California San Francisco Fresno Medical Education Program on this ceremonious occasion of the opening of the Medical Education and Research Center.

As UCSF School of Medicine celebrates its 30th anniversary in the Valley, the program deserves congratulations for providing much needed medical services to our area. With 175 medical residents trained each year in the program, over 50 percent of these residents remain in the Greater San Joaquin Valley to set up their practices. The Medical Education Program offers a unique community development experience. Medical students can train with some of the best and brightest doctors, at the same time deliver services to community members that may not have been previously accessible.

This Center is a product of a bipartisan effort to provide medical resources to a program that offers unsurpassed benefits to the community. As one of nine Central Valley members of the California State Legislature who sought funding for the Medical Education and Research Center, it is certainly uplifting to see this project come to fruition. By constructing a new Center, UCSF-Fresno will no longer be forced to make do with facilities that are functionally obsolete or geographically separated over a wide area.

The new Medical Education and Research Center will serve as the operating location for the Medical Education Program and house both the administrative and educational components of this program. The facility will allow the Medical Education Program to expand and fill its role as a leader in health and education

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